

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2936

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0218

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN,WB,TU,GE

SUBJECT: TURKISH AIRLINES AND BERLIN AIR PROBLEMS

1. IN A MEETING WITH THE COMMADANTS AND MINISTERS
JANUARY 29, THE GOVERNING MAYOR TOOK A RATHER PESSI-
MISTIC VIEW OF WHAT COULD BE DONE TO LIMIT TURKISH
AIRLINES TRAFFIC INTO EAST BERLIN AND REDUCE
POTENTIAL ECONOMIC DAMAGE TO THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN
CHARTER AIRLINES NOW FLYING BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND
TURKEY. HE SAID THAT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY
PROTESTED STRONGLY TO TURKS AGAINST THY'S PLANS FOR
AIR SERVICES BETWEEN TURKEY AND EAST GERMANY'S SCHOEN-
FELD AIRPORT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT COUNTER-MEASURES
AVAILABLE TO THE BERLIN SENAT FOR APPLYING PRESSURE
AGAINST THE TURKS WERE ESSENTIALLY INCONSEQUENTIAL.
HE THEREFORE WAS OF THE VIEW THAT UNLESS THE ALLIES
WERE MORE WILLING THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN PAST TO ALLOW
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TURKISH AIRLINES LAND IN EEST BERLIN AND THEREBY PUT

BURDEN ON TURKS TO OBTAIN GDR OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS,
CAUSE WAS ESSENTIALLY LOST.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO BONN
TOLD MINISTER AT PRESIDENT HEINEMANN'S DINNER LAST
WEEK THAT TURKS WERE WILLING TO PRESS HARD FOR GDR
OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS IF THE WESTERN POWERS WERE PREPARED TO
INDICATE WILLINGNESS LET THY LAND IN WEST BERLIN. HE
SAID HE REALIZED IMPORTANCE TO WEST BERLIN OF PARTI-
CIPATING IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AIR
TRAFFIC. HOWEVER, WHILE HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THAT
PURPOSE, FACT WAS THAT SO LONG AS WESTERN ATTITUDE TOWARD
THY LANDING RIGHTS IN WEST BERLIN NOT FORTHCOMING, TURKS HAD NO
ALTERNATIVE BUT DEVELOP SCHOENFELD SERVICES. HE
ASSURED MINISTER THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS MATTER
IN THESE TERMS WITH THE FOREIGN OFFICE IN BONN AND
THAT OFFICIALS THERE HAD ASSURED HIM THEY WOULD PROPOSE
IN THE BONN GROUP EXTENSION TO THY RIGHT TO LAND AT
WEST BERLIN AIRPORTS.

3. COMMENT: WE SHARE GENERALLY THE VIEWS OF GOVERNING MAYOR AND
THE TURKISH AMBASSADOR IN THIS MATTER. WE DO NOT SEE
HOW ALLIES CAN TAKE A NEGATIVE POSITION ON THY LANDING
RIGHTS IN WEST BERLIN AND THEN INSIST THAT THE TURKS
SHOULD NOT LAND IN SCHOENEFELD. MOREOVER, FACT IS THAT
IF TURKISH USE OF SCHOENEFELD CONTINUES TO INCREASE AS
IT MAY WELL, THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH AIR CHARTERS OPERATING
SERVICES BETWEEN BERLIN AND TURKEY WILL BE HURT BADLY.
WE THEREFORE WOULD URGE THAT BONN GROUP REEXAMINE
BERLIN AIR STUDY WHICH NOW TWO YEARS OLD TO SEE IF THE
TURKISH PROBLEM CANNOT BE RESOLVED WHILE THERE IS STILL
TIME TO DO SO. KLEIN

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